

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cooking appliance comprising:
  - a container for containing a cooking liquid;
  - 5 an electrical heating element for heating cooking liquid in the container;
  - a perforated food receptacle comprising first and second adjacent baskets supported in the container for unitary rotation about a substantially horizontal axis,
  - 10 the baskets being openable from a closed food-containing configuration in which part of the receptacle passes through the cooking liquid in the container upon rotation of the receptacle, to enable insertion and removal of food pieces; and
  - 15 a drive mechanism for rotating the food receptacle about the axis.
2. The cooking appliance of Claim 1 wherein both baskets are perforated.
- 20 3. The cooking appliance of Claim 1, further comprising a base in which the container is housed, and a lid attached hingedly to the base and wherein one of the baskets is attached to the lid and lifts away from the
- 25 other basket when the lid is opened.

4. The cooking appliance of Claim 1 wherein one of the baskets includes a wall extending at least partially around the axis, the wall including a plurality of traps  
5 for trapping and carrying the food articles out of the cooking liquid upon rotation of the receptacle and then allowing the food articles to fall back down upon further rotation of the receptacle.

10 5. The cooking appliance of Claim 1, wherein one of the baskets has a drainage wall that is spaced sufficiently close to the axis so as not to be immersed in the cooking liquid at a selected angular/drainage orientation of the food receptacle.

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6. The cooking appliance of Claim 1, wherein the container has a cross-section that is larger than that of the food receptacle, together sharing a common central axis.

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7. The cooking appliance of Claim 1, wherein the food receptacle is partly cylindrical and has a central axis coinciding with the rotation axis.

8. The cooking appliance of Claim 4, wherein the traps are spaced apart angularly about the pivot axis.

9. The cooking appliance of Claim 4, wherein the traps  
5 comprise protrusions on an inner surface of the baskets.

10. The cooking appliance of Claim 9, wherein the receptacle baskets are substantially hemi-cylindrical about the axis and have opposite ends, across which ends  
10 at least some of the protrusions extend.

11. The cooking appliance of Claim 10, wherein some or all of the protrusions have generally curved profiles.

15 12. The cooking appliance of Claim 1, wherein the food receptacle has a generally cylindrical shape about the axis, and the drive mechanism is adapted to rotate the food receptacle in a continuous manner.

20 13. The cooking appliance of Claim 3, wherein the drive mechanism comprises an electric motor and a gearbox transmitting output from the motor to an input coupling.

14. The cooking appliance of Claim 13, wherein the baskets comprise input coupling parts that interengage with one another and engage with the output coupling upon closure of the lid.

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15. The cooking appliance of Claim 13 wherein the input coupling comprises a first coupling part affixed to the upper basket and a second coupling part affixed to the lower basket, the first and second coupling parts slotting together to secure the upper and lower baskets in a food-containment configuration.

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16. The cooking appliance of Claim 3, further comprising a handle supported pivotally by the base and attached rotationally with respect to said other basket and adapted to lift the other basket away from the container when desired.

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17. The cooking appliance of Claim 16, wherein there is provided at a proximal end of the handle a cam surface engaging with a locking pin that locks the handle to serve other basket when the handle is raised.

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18. The cooking appliance of Claim, 1 wherein the container comprises a trough into which the cooking liquid is received.